

REMARKS**Specification**

The specification has been amended to change the word “frustration” to –frustrating--.

This change merely corrects spelling and does not add new matter into the specification.

Claim Rejections

35 USC 102(b). In the Office Action of November 28, 2004, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 12 under 35 USC 102(b) based on the patent of Eckstrum. The Examiner has further indicated that claims 8-11 and 13-18 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include the independent claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 20 is presented herein and comprises all of the limitations of independent claim 1, including the mounting rods, levers, tie rod and handle as recited in "objected to" claim 8 as well as the brake shoes and linkage as recited in intervening claim 7. The prior art of Eckstrum fails to disclose the combination of elements as recited in new claim 20. Therefore, it is believed that new claim 20 is allowable.

Original claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been amended to depend directly from new claim 20. In addition, claim 2 has been amended to comply with the language of independent claim 20 which recites a braking device. Claim 3 has been canceled. Amended claims 4, 5 and 6 have been changed to comply with the language of new parent claim 20 which also recites a plurality of braking shoes. Presently amended claim 7 has also been changed to comply with the language of independent claim 20.

In amended claim 8, the plurality of mounting rods are recited to comprise a first and second mounting rod and the plurality of levers are recited to comprise a first and second lever. The tie rod and handle as set forth in original claim 8 are now recited in new claim 20 from which amended claim 8 depends.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from amended claim 2.

Amended claims 2, 4-9 and previously presented claims 10 and 11 depend from independent claim 20, newly presented herein, and are therefore deemed allowable since depending from an allowable claim.

New claim 21 presented herein includes all of the limitations of originally presented independent claim 12 and limitations of “objected to” claim 13, including the central, first and second portions and the first and second connecting members. In addition, the first and second connecting members are further defined in new claim 21 as being “releasable”. It is believed that new claim 21 defines the invention over the prior art and is therefore allowable. Claim 12 has been canceled.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite the central portion as comprising first and second ends with the first and second portions attached respectively. Amended claim 16 has been changed in order that the language recited therein comply with the antecedent language presented in parent claim 21. Claim 18 has been amended to correct the spelling of the term “shoe”.

Amended claims 13, 16 and 18 and previously presented claims 14, 15 and 17 depend from new claim 21 which is allowable. Therefore, the depending claims (amended claims 13, 16, 18 and previously presented claims 14, 15, 17) are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner has stated in the Office Action (11/28/04) that claim 19 is allowable. Independent claim 19 has been amended to correct language having no proper antecedent basis in the claim. The term “connecting piece” has been changed to --connecting member--.

Consequently, the changes made to claim 19 are not substantive and claim 19 is believed to be allowable.

No new matter has been entered in the amendments to the claims.

Drawings

Formal drawings are submitted herein.

Conclusion

The above amendments being fully responsive to all outstanding rejections and formal requirements, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that a telephone conference will expedite the allowance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

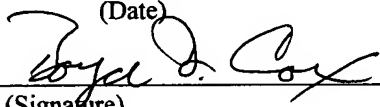
Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Mailing

I, Boyd D. Cox, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

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